

Application No. 09/934,947
Communication dated December 16, 2005

Docket No. 1232-4756

REMARKS

The above claim listing is being resubmitted at the request of the examiner and reflects the Request for Continued Examination (with Preliminary Amendment) filed April 29, 2004, as well as the May 26, 2004 Supplemental Preliminary Amendment. This claim listing is believed to reflect the current text of these claims.

As discussed with Examiner Rao, the previous examiner had raised a formal question concerning claim 36, which that Examiner objected to because its scope allegedly was unclear since it referenced two preceding claims (claims 34 and 24). That examiner had proposed to remove the reference to claim 24 and to incorporate its text into claim 36. Proposed amended claim 36 would read as follows:

Proposed Claim 36: A projection optical system according to claim 34 including more than one of the optical elements made of isometric crystals in which an angle between each axis of the isometric crystals and an optical axis of the optical system is less than 10°, wherein said plurality of optical elements include at least two optical elements of which axes perpendicular to the axes are not parallel to each other according to claim 24, forming a first set of optical elements, wherein a second set of optical elements within the first set of optical elements have the axis substantially parallel with each other;

wherein the rest of the first set of optical elements, forming a third set of optical elements, have the axis substantially parallel with each other and perpendicular to the axis of the second set of optical elements; and

wherein a difference between a total thickness (element thickness on axis) of the second set of optical elements and a total thickness of the third set of optical elements is less than 10 mm.

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This application is respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is requested. In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THE TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF THIS AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 AND 1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 13-4500, ORDER NO. 1232-4756.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: December 16, 2005

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